COUNTRY	East Germany
SUBJECT	Exploitation of Copper Resources in East Germany

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1. Since it was expected that three or four more years of the present unusual high production would seriously decrease the copper production of the Mansfeld Copper Bearing Mines, the State Geological Commission in East Berlin, because of the importance of copper for the war industry, boosted the prospecting and searching of small copper resources to be exploited after exhaustion of the Mansfeld copper mines. These small and mostly rather insignificant copper bearings were located in Osterhausen, Kreis Bernburg; Groebzig, Kreis Koethen; Urbach, Ilfeld and Hohenstein, Kreis Nordhausen; and Boesenrode, Kreis Sangerhausen. Copper bearings and ore bearing sand resources were located near Küneritz, Kreis Koethen, and resources with ore bearing and were located in Bedra, Kreis Sangerhausen, Steinthalleben, Kreis Artern, Eyffhaeuser; Wolferstedt, Kreis Sangerhausen; Gera; Altenburg and Zwickau.

2. While, prior to about July 1953, the existence of copper, of even very small resources had been the primary interest of the State Geological Commission and no consideration was given to the economical point of eventual production, after the new course in East Germany, researchers were charged with sabotage for capitalistic powers and wasting valuable material and time at unproductive places,

   Orders were issued that all copper resources be checked over from the economical point of view. Many copper bearings, including almost all of the ore bearing sand resources were checked with negative results. The Department for Copper Bearings at the Halle Branch Office of the State Geological Commission was put in charge of the survey program which would last for several months. [ ] the personnel of this office would be increased considerably.

3. [ ] the copper content of state bearings in East Germany at a maximum of 40 million tons, and seriously doubted that more than 25 percent could actually be mined, since only estimated ore resources were involved and the figure did not include losses caused, for example, by low grade ore. Since a great number of these resources were so small that mining would not be economical and since the production would probably be far more difficult at all places than in Mansfeld and Sangerhausen [ ] the copper situation in East Germany was less satisfactory than was indicated by high official figures.

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